

REMARKS

The Applicant acknowledges the objection to claim 6 and has corrected the dependency problem identified by the Examiner.

The present application currently includes independent claims 1, 19, and 26. Each of these independent claims specifically recites that primary and secondary sealants are used to seal the insulating glazing unit. The claims have been amended to recite that the primary sealant is applied after the outwardly-facing channel is formed. The specification of the present application describes the benefits of the claimed invention and the drawbacks of the prior art; including prior art similar to that disclosed in the primary reference cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner is rejecting claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13, 19-23, and 26-29 as being anticipated by Hodek (US Patent 5,655,282). The Examiner then rejects claims 4, 7, 18, and 24 as being obvious in view of Hodek. The remaining claims are rejected as being obvious in view of Hodek and other prior art references. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. The Hodek reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a primary and a secondary sealant as required by each of the independent claims pending in the application.

The Examiner cites column 7, lines 60-63 and Fig. 10 of the Hodek reference to disclose the primary and secondary sealants. The Applicant has carefully reviewed this material and submits that only a primary sealant is taught as being disposed in the channel recited in the claims. Hodek discloses that sealant 154 is used to connect the spacer to the glass. When sealant 154 is applied, the outwardly-facing channel recited in the claims is not yet formed. The channel cannot be formed when sealant 154 is applied because sealant 154 is used to connected the spacer to the glass in order to form the outwardly-facing channel. Sealants similar to 154 are typically applied to the spacer before the spacer is attached to the glass. Hodek then discloses that sealant 155 may be used in the channel over top of sealant 154. Adhesive 160 is disposed in the insulating chamber and does not function as a sealant. The Hodek reference thus fails to

disclose, teach, or suggest a method of sealing an insulating glazing unit wherein primary and secondary sealants are applied to the outwardly-facing channel as recited in the claims.

The Applicant further submits that the dependent claims are independently patentable in addition to being in condition for allowance based on the allowability of the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowability for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 18th day of July, 2002.

SAND & SEBOLT



By: Fred H. Zollinger, III
Reg. No. 39,438

Aegis Tower
4940 Munson Street, NW, Suite 1100
Canton, OH 44718-3615
Telephone: (330) 244-1174
Facsimile: (330) 244-1173
FHZ/vh
Attorney Docket: 1663-L

Marked-up version of claims

1. (Once amended) A method for fabricating an insulating glazing unit comprising the steps of:

- providing a first glazing sheet having a first perimeter;
- connecting a spacer to the first glazing sheet at a location spaced inwardly from the first perimeter;

- providing a second glazing sheet having a second perimeter;
- connecting the second glazing sheet to the spacer such that the spacer is disposed at a location inward from the second perimeter whereby an outwardly-facing channel is formed between the glazing sheets and the spacer and an insulating chamber is formed inward of the spacer between the glazing sheets;

- hermetically sealing the insulating chamber by applying a primary sealant into the outwardly-facing channel; the primary sealant being applied after then outwardly-facing channel is formed; and

- applying a secondary sealant into the outwardly-facing channel after at least a portion of the primary sealant is applied.

6. (Once amended) The method of claim [4] 5, further comprising the step of providing the spacer with a pair of notched corners.

19. (Once amended) A method for sealing an insulating glazing unit having first and second glazing sheets spaced apart by a spacer disposed inward of the perimeters of the glazing sheets to form an outwardly-facing channel; the insulating glazing unit having an insulating chamber disposed inward of the spacer between the glazing sheets; the method comprising the steps of:

- hermetically sealing the insulating chamber by applying a primary sealant to at least the corners of the channel disposed adjacent the spacer and glazing sheets; the primary sealant being applied after the outwardly-facing channel is formed; and

- applying a secondary sealant in the outwardly-facing channel over the primary sealant; the secondary sealant being different from the primary sealant.

26. (Once amended) A method of forming an insulating glazing unit comprising the steps of:

- providing a first glazing sheet having a first perimeter;
- connecting a metal spacer to the first glazing sheet at a location spaced inwardly from the first perimeter;
- providing a second glazing sheet having a second perimeter;
- connecting the second glazing sheet to the spacer such that the spacer is disposed at a location inwardly from the second perimeter whereby an outwardly-facing channel is formed between the glazing sheets and the spacer and an insulating chamber is formed inwardly of the spacer between the glazing sheets;
- applying a primary sealant into the outwardly-facing channel to hermetically seal the insulating chamber; the primary sealant being applied after the outwardly-facing channel is formed; and
- applying a secondary sealant over the primary sealant.